

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Ronald A. KATZ

Serial No.: not yet assigned

Filed: herewith

For: COMMERCIAL PRODUCT
ROUTING SYSTEM WITH VIDEO
VENDING CAPABILITY

Group Art Unit [Parent Case]: 2743

Examiner [Parent Case]:
Woo, Stella



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97(b)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In compliance with the Applicant's duty under 37 CFR § 1.56, the following documents are brought to the attention of the Examiner. The documents are identified below and on the attached Forms PTO-1449. In order to avoid submission of unnecessary copies, the undersigned submits that all the copies were provided previously with several information disclosure statements filed with respect to Applicant's parent application serial no. 08/189,405. Of course, if the Examiner would like separate copies submitted for this application, the Examiner is requested to notify the undersigned.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. §1.10)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as 'Express Mail Post Office To Addressee' (Label No. EM542080944 US) in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date of Deposit

2/17/2000

Connie Kwon

U.S. Patents:

Re. 32,115	04/15/1986	Lockwood et al.
2,575,606	11/20/1951	Wales et al.
2,957,567	10/25/1960	Doud
3,246,082	04/12/1966	Levy
3,253,689	05/31/1966	Thompson
3,445,633	05/20/1969	Ratner
3,609,250	09/28/1971	Morris
3,622,995	11/23/1971	Dilks et al.
3,705,384	12/05/1972	Wahlberg
3,794,774	02/26/1974	Kemmerly et al.
3,881,060	04/29/1975	Connell et al.
3,909,553	09/30/1975	Marshall
4,037,250	07/19/1977	McGahan et al.
4,070,698	01/24/1978	Curtis et al.
4,090,038	05/16/1978	Biggs
4,137,429	01/30/1979	Stockdale
4,141,006	02/20/1979	Braxton
4,150,254	04/17/1979	Schussler et al.
4,173,024	10/30/1979	Miller
4,186,438	01/29/1980	Benson et al.
4,190,819	02/26/1980	Burgyan
4,193,114	03/11/1980	Benini
4,194,242	03/18/1980	Robbins
4,247,759	01/27/1981	Yuris et al.
4,262,333	04/14/1981	Horigame et al.
4,270,042	5/1981	Case
4,289,930	09/15/1981	Connolly et al.
4,346,442	08/24/1982	Musmanno
4,359,631	11/16/1982	Lockwood et al.
4,360,345	11/23/1982	Hon
4,360,827	11/23/1982	Braun
4,393,277	07/12/1983	Besen et al.
4,412,287	10/25/1983	Braddock, III
4,424,572	01/03/1984	Lorig et al.
4,449,186	5/1984	Kelly et al.
4,450,477	05/22/1984	Lovett
4,451,701	05/29/1984	Bendig
4,493,948	01/15/1985	Sues et al.
4,496,943	01/29/1985	Greenblatt
4,528,643	7/1985	Freeny, Jr. et al.
4,553,222	11/1985	Kurland et al.
4,559,415	12/17/1985	Bernard et al.
4,566,030	01/21/1986	Nickerson et al.
4,567,359	01/28/1986	Lockwood
4,577,067	03/18/1986	Levy et al.
4,591,906	05/27/1985	Morales-Garza et al.
4,626,836	12/02/1986	Curtis et al.

4,635,251	01/06/1987	Stanley et al.
4,641,127	02/03/1987	Hogan et al.
4,652,998	03/24/1987	Koza et al.
4,654,482	03/31/1987	DeAngelis
4,674,044	6/1987	Kalmus et al.
4,694,490	09/15/1987	Harvey et al.
4,704,725	11/03/1987	Harvey et al.
4,704,725	11/03/1987	Harvey et al.
4,712,191	12/08/1987	Penna
4,720,849	01/19/1988	Tayama
4,727,243	02/23/1988	Savar
4,734,858	3/1988	Schlaflly
4,739,478	4/1988	Roberts et al.
4,739,510	04/19/1988	Jeffers et al.
4,742,457	5/1988	Leon et al.
4,745,468	05/17/1988	Von Kohorn
4,751,640	6/1988	Lucas et al.
4,755,871	07/05/1988	Morales-Garza et al.
4,758,872	07/19/1988	Hada
4,761,684	08/02/1988	Clark et al.
4,763,191	08/09/1988	Gordon et al.
4,788,682	11/29/1988	Vij et al.
4,789,863	12/06/1988	Bush
4,789,928	12/1988	Fujisaki
4,794,530	12/27/1988	Yukiura et al.
4,799,156	01/17/1989	Shavit et al.
4,805,134	02/14/1989	Calo et al.
4,807,023	02/21/1989	Bestler et al.
4,823,265	4/1989	Nelson
4,825,457	04/25/1989	Lebowitz
4,833,710	05/23/1989	Hirashima
4,843,377	06/27/1989	Fuller et al.
4,845,636	07/04/1989	Walker
4,845,739	07/04/1989	Katz
4,852,154	07/25/1989	Lewis et al.
4,873,662	10/10/1989	Sargent
4,876,597	10/24/1989	Roy et al.
4,876,648	10/1989	Lloyd
4,885,685	12/1989	Wolfberg et al.
4,893,248	01/09/1990	Pitts et al.
4,893,325	01/09/1990	Pankonen et al.
4,897,867	01/30/1990	Foster et al.
4,903,201	2/1990	Wagner
4,907,160	03/06/1990	Duncan et al.
4,910,676	3/1990	Alldredge
4,916,435	04/10/1990	Fuller
4,922,520	05/01/1990	Bernard et al.
4,926,325	5/1990	Benton et al.
4,928,177	05/22/1990	Martinez
4,939,773	07/03/90	Katz
4,947,028	08/07/1990	Gorog
4,951,196	08/21/1990	Jackson

4,954,886	09/04/1990	Elberbaum
4,955,052	09/04/1990	Hussain
4,962,473	10/09/1990	Crain
4,965,825	10/23/1990	Harvey et al.
4,972,318	11/1990	Brown et al.
4,980,826	12/1990	Wagner
4,989,233	01/29/1991	Schakowsky et al.
4,992,866	02/12/1991	Morgan
4,992,940	5/1990	Dworkin
5,020,129	05/28/1991	Martin et al.
5,021,953	6/1991	Webber et al.
5,032,989	07/16/1991	Tornetta
5,042,062	08/20/1991	Lee et al.
5,060,068	10/22/1991	Lindstrom
5,061,916	10/29/1991	French et al.
5,063,507	11/1991	Lindsey et al.
5,065,393	11/12/1991	Sibbitt et al.
5,072,103	12/10/1991	Nara
5,077,665	12/1991	Silverman
5,077,788	12/31/1991	Cook et al.
5,093,718	03/03/1992	Hoarty et al.
5,101,353	3/1992	Lupien et al.
5,109,399	04/28/1992	Thompson
5,109,414	04/28/1992	Harvey et al.
5,117,354	05/26/1992	Long et al.
5,136,501	8/1992	Silverman et al.
5,136,581	08/04/1992	Muehrcke
5,151,782	09/29/1992	Ferraro
5,164,979	11/17/1992	Choi
5,164,982	11/17/1992	Davis
5,168,446	12/1992	Wiseman
5,170,427	12/08/1992	Guichard et al.
5,191,410	03/02/1993	McCalley et al.
5,191,613	3/1993	Graziano et al.
5,193,056	3/1993	Boes
5,202,759	04/13/1993	Laycock
5,204,670	04/20/1993	Stinton
5,206,803	4/1993	Vitagliano et al.
5,220,501	6/1993	Lawlor et al.
5,222,018	6/1993	Sharpe et al.
5,224,157	06/29/1993	Yamada et al.
5,229,850	07/20/1973	Toyoshima
5,231,571	07/27/1993	D'Agostino
5,233,654	08/03/1993	Harvey et al.
5,235,680	8/1993	Bijnagte
5,237,499	8/1993	Garback
5,237,500	8/1993	Perg et al.
5,239,462	8/1993	Jones et al.
5,241,587	08/31/93	Horton et al.
5,241,671	8/1993	Reed et al.
5,262,942	11/1993	Earle
5,264,929	11/23/1993	Yamaguchi

5,283,731	02/01/1994	Lalonde et al.
5,285,383	2/1994	Lindsey et al.
5,305,200	4/1994	Hartheimer et al.
5,309,355	05/03/1994	Lockwood
5,323,315	6/1994	Highbloom
5,323,445	06/21/1994	Nakatsuka
5,335,277	08/02/1994	Harvey et al.
5,347,632	9/1994	Filepp et al.
5,351,186	9/1994	Bullock et al.
5,361,199	11/1994	Shoquist et al.
5,375,055	12/1994	Togher
5,402,336	3/1995	Spiegelhoff et al.
5,412,708	05/02/1995	Katz
5,426,281	6/1995	Abecassis
5,440,624	08/08/1995	Schoof et al.
5,442,771	8/1995	Filepp et al.
5,450,123	09/12/1995	Smith
5,451,998	9/1995	Hamrick
5,455,903	10/1995	Jolissaint et al.
5,465,291	11/1995	Barrus et al.
5,475,585	12/12/1995	Bush
5,485,370	1/1996	Moss et al.
5,500,793	3/1996	Deming, Jr. et al.
5,528,513	06/18/1986	Vaitzblit et al.
5,557,518	9/1996	Rosen
5,592,375	1/1997	Salmon et al.
5,602,905	02/11/1997	Mettke
5,604,487	02/18/1987	Frymier
5,689,553	11/18/1997	Ahuja et al.
5,710,887	01/20/1998	Chelliah et al.
5,758,328	05/26/1998	Giovannoli
5,794,207	08/11/1998	Walker et al.
5,845,265	12/1998	Woolston
5,905,973	05/1999	Yonezawa et al.

Foreign Patents:

188,286	07/1986	EPC
0 010 399 A1	04/30/1980	EPC
0 029 456	02/1991	Japan
63-260536	04/1990	Japan
Sho 49-73198	07/15/1974	Japan
Sho 50-98626	01/10/1974	Japan
Sho 50-133892	10/23/1975	Japan
Sho 52-72800	11/27/1975	Japan
Sho 54-60000	05/15/1979	Japan
Sho 57-92254	11/26/1980	Japan
WO 89/02139	03/09/1989	PCT
GB 2 105 075 A	03/16/1983	U.K.
1,437,883	03/16/1983	U.K.
1,504,112	03/15/1978	U.K.

Other Documents (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.):

Ackerman, Lorrie F., et al., "The Video Phone: New Life For An Old Idea?," April 1992, pp. 1-47 - (Paper)

"American, IBM, American Express To Test Automatic Ticket Vendor," Aviation Daily, October 30, 1969 - (Article)

"An ISDN Primer: Technology And Network Implications," Business Communications Review, 1986 - (Article)

Andrade, Juan M., et al. "Open On-line Transaction Processing with the TUXEDO System," digest of papers Comcon Spring 1992, IEEE Computer Society Press, Los Alamitos, California, pp. 366-371 - (Article)

Andrews, E.L., "FCC Plan to set Up 2-Way TV," The New York Times, Buiness Day, January 11, 1991, pp. C1 - (Article)

Angiolillo, J., et al., "Personal Visual Communications Enters The Market Place," Visual Communications, AT&T Technology Products, Systems and Services, vol. 7, no. 3, fall 1992, pp. 18-28 - (Article)

Applebaum, Simon, "Two-way television" Cable Vision, Aug. 8, 1983, p. 66 - (Article)

Arnbak, J., "ISDN: Innovative Services or Innovative Technology?," Proceedings of the IFIP TC 6/ICCC joint conference on ISDN in Europe, April 25-27, 1989, pp. 45-51, pp. 405-411 - (Article)

AT&T News Release, "AT&T Picasso Phone Still-Image Phone gets new secure capability," Tuesday, June 7, 1994, pp. 1-2 - (News release)

AT&T News Release, "Picasso phone sends high-quality images over ordinary lines," Tuesday, May 11, 1993, pp. 1-5 - (News release)

"Auerbach On Data Collection Systems," 1972, Chapters 3, 4, 5, 14 - (Chapters from a Book)

Bocker, P., "ISDN The Integrated Services Digital Network," 1988, pp. 1-52 - (Article)

Bowen, Charles, et al. How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe, 5th edition, 1993, Table of Contents (pp. v-xxi); "CompuServe Mail" (pp. 50-55); Chapter 12 ("Shopping", pp. 283-299), Appendix (pp. 453-455) - (Chapters from book)

Brittan, David, "*Being There* The Promise of Multimedia Communications," Technology Review, May/June 1992, pp. 44-50 - (Article)

Broom, Michael, "AT&T Launches Online Buying for Wireless Products and Services; Largest Wireless Carrier to Offer Automated Online Store," Business Wire, Thursday, October 29, 1998 - (Article)

Cerbone, R., "The Coming HDTV Wave," Visual Communications, AT&T Technology Products, Systems and Services, vol. 7, no. 3, fall 1992, pp. 14-17 - (Article)

Cheung, J.B., et al. "ISDN: Evolutionary step to integrated access and transport services," Record, November 1985 - (Article)

- Del Rosso, Laura, "Marketel Says it Plans to Launch Air Fare 'Auction' in June," *Travel Weekly*, Apr. 29, 1991
- Del Rosso, Laura, "Ticket-Bidding Firm Closes its Doors," *Travel Weekly*, Mar. 12, 1992
- Delatore, J.P., et al., "ISDN Data Networking Applications In The Corporate Environment," AT&T Technical Journal, Vol. 67, No. 6, Nov/Dec 1988, pp. 107-120 - (Article)
- "Electronic in-home shopping: Our stores are always open," *Chain Store Age Executive*, March 1985, pp. 111, 116 - (Article)
- Ellis, M.L., et al., "INDAX: An Operational Interactive Cabletext System," *IEEE Journal On Selected Areas In Communications*, Vol. SAC-1, No. 2, February 1983, pp. 285-293 - (Article)
- Englander, A.C., et al. "Creating Tomorrow's Multimedia Systems Today," Visual Communications, AT&T Technology Products, Systems and Services, vol. 7, no. 3, fall 1992, pp. 24-30 - (Article)
- Ensor, J. Robert, et al., "The Rapport Multimedia Conferencing System-A Software Overview," *IEEE Magazine*, 1988, pp. 52-58 - (Article)
- Ericson, D., et al., "New Concepts of Addressability," PayPerViews, Vol. 1, No. 1, December, 1989, pp. 8-14 - (Article)
- Francas, M., et al., "Input Devices For Public Videotex Services", Human-Computer Interaction - INTERACT '84, 1985, pp. 171-175 - (Paper)
- Fry, Jason, "Buying The Goods, Person To Person," *Wall Street Journal*, Dec. 7, 1998
- Gawrys, G.W., "Ushering In The Era Of ISDN," AT&T Technology, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1986, pp. 2-9 - (Article)
- GE Information Services brochures ("Getting Started On GEIS' EDI Services; Getting Started On The EDI Express System; UPC Express; copy of business card of Marty Costello; EDI Products and Services; Electronic Data Interchange: Your Competitive Edge In Managing Today's Business Cycle; Information Services Agreement; Introduction To Electronic Data Interchange, A Primer)
- Godfrey, D., et al., "The Telidon Book - Designing and Using Videotex Systems", pp. 1-103 - (Book)
- Golden, Fran, "AAL's Riga Doubts Marketel's Appeal to Retailers," *Travel Weekly*, Nov. 13, 1989
- Gould, D., "Audio Response Units," PayPerViews, September, 1989, pp. 19-20, 22 - (Article)
- Harvey, D.E., et al., "Videoconferencing Systems: Seeing Is Believing," Visual Communications, AT&T Technology Products, Systems and Services, vol. 7, no. 3, fall 1992, pp. 7-13 - (Article)
- Haszto, E.D., et al., "Alliance Teleconferencing Services Boost Business Efficiency," *AT&T Technology*, Volume Three, Number One, pp. 22-31
- Heidkamp, Martha M., "Reaping the Benefits of Financial EDI," *Management Accounting*, May 1991, pp. 2-3 and 39-43
- Herr, T.J., "ISDN Applications in Public Switched Networks," AT&T Technology, Vol. 2, No. 3, 1987, pp. 56-65 - (Article)

"ICS launches new ?-home interactive video service package", Cable Vision, Sept. 3, 1984, pp. 71/73 - (Article)

Imai, R., "Multimedia Communication Technology," Fujitsu Scientific & Technical Journal, 1992, Vol. 28, No. 2, pp. 172-179 - (Article)

"Introduction to ISDN," Online Publications, 1987, pp. 1-79 - (Tutorial Paper)

ISDN Reference Manual (Integrated Services Digital Network, AT&T, July 1987 - (Manual)

ISDN Strategies, 1986 - (Article)

ISDN Strategies, Vol. 1, No. 1, July 1986 - (Article)

ISDN Strategies, Vol. 2, No. 3, March 1987 - (Article)

ISDN Strategies, Vol. 3, No. 12, December 1988 - (Article)

ISDN Strategies, Vol. 4, No. 1, January 1989 through Vol. 4, No. 7, July 1989 - (Article)

Kamin, I., Questions and Answers About TV, 1983, Chapters 4-7 - (Chapter of a Book)

Kauza, J.J., "ISDN: A Customer's Service," AT&T Technology, Vol. 4, No. 3, 1989, pp. 4-11 - (Article)

Kim, B.G., "Current Advances In LANs, MAN's & ISDN," 1989, Chapter 4 - (Chapter of a Book)

Kuhl, C., "Operators' Handbook The PPV billing challenge is keeping it simple while obtaining valuable marketing information," Cablevision, 49, January 15, 1990, pp. 49, 52 - (Article)

Kuttner, Robert, "Computers May Turn the World into One Big Commodities Pit," Business Week, Sep. 11, 1989

Lachenbruch, D., "Video News," Radio-Electronics, Dec., 1989 - (Article)

Long, J., et al., "Transaction Processing Using Videotex or: Shopping on Prestel", Human-Computer Interaction - INTERACT '84, 1985, pp. 251-255 - (Paper)

Lucent Technologies Press Release, "AT&T receives FDA approval to market Picasso as diagnostic tool," Thursday, March 9, 1995 - (Press release)

MCA Discovision, 1979 (Manual/Brochure)

Miller, Michael, Using CompuServe, 2nd Edition, 1994, Contents at a Glance/Introduction (9 pages); Chapter 12 ("Beyond CompuServe: E-mailing Other On-Line Services," pp. 172-177); Chapter 13 ("Minding Your Manners: E-mail Etiquette," pp. 180-185) + drawing figure; Chapter 14 ("Just What Is This Internet Thing?", pp. 190-195); Chapter 15 ("E-mailing From CompuServe To The Internet," pp. 198-207); Chapter 16 ("Forums On The Internet: USENET News Groups," pp. 210-221); Chapter 17 ("Files On The Internet: Using FTP," pp. 223-233); Chapter 18 ("Other Internet Services: Now And In The Future," pp. 235-241, + drawing figure); Chapter 36 ("Find A Pretty Picture," pp. 423-437); Chapter 38 ("Go Shopping," pp. 452-463); Chapter 39 (face page only) - (Chapters from book)

NASDAQ Website Printouts

Neville, T., et al., "The Application of National ANI to Pay-Per-View Ordering," 1988 NCTA Technical Papers Online Review, Vol. 3, No. 2, 1979, pp. 140-141 - (Article)

Pelline, Jeff, "Travelers Bidding on Airline Tickets: SF Firm Offers Chance for Cut-rate Fares," San Francisco Chronicle, Section A4, Aug. 19, 1991

Perry, Y., "Data Communications in the ISDN Era," Proceedings of the IFIP TC6 First International Conference on Data Communications in the ISDN Era, March 4-5, 1985 - (Article)

Posko, A.L., "Versatile Services Streamline Global Videoconferencing," Visual Communications, AT&T Technology Products, Systems and Services, vol. 7, no. 3, fall 1992, pp. 2-8 - (Article)

Prodigy Made Easy 2nd Edition, Osborne McGraw Hill, 1993, Table of Contents (6 pages); Forward (pp.xix); Chapter 6 ("Shopping And Other Services", pp. 127-151; Chapter 10 ("I Can't Believe This Is Prodigy", pp. 234-239)

Profit From Impulse Pay-Per-View," Telephony, July 14, 1986 - (Advertisement)

Rangan, P. Venkat, "Video conferencing, file storage, and management in multimedia computer systems," Computer Networks and ISDN Systems, March 1993, Vol. 25, No. 8, pp. 901-919 - (Article)

Ref. FCC Tariff Nos. 2, 4, 9," April 5, 1988 - (Article)

Ritter, Jeffrey B., "Scope of the Uniform Commercial Code: Computer Contracting Cases and Electronic Commerical Practices," 45 Bus. Law, 2533 (Aug. 1990)

Rusche, J., "Business Programming for the Video Disc," pp. 1180137 - (Chapters from a Book)

Schrage, Michael, "An Experiment in Economic Theory; Labs Testing Real Markets," The Record, Section B1, Nov. 26, 1989

"Shopping via a network is no longer just talk," Data Communications, Aug. 1981 at 43

Spiedel, Richard E., "Impact of Electronic Contracting on Contract Formation Under Revised UCC Article 2, Sales," C878 ALI-ABI, 335, Dec. 9, 1993

"System will enable customer to establish prebilled 'credit bank'," Communications Daily, August 15, 1990 - (Article)

Takei, Daisuke, "Videotex Information System and Credit System Connecting with MARS-301 of JNR," Japanese Railway Engineering, No. 95, September 1985, pp. 9-11 - (Article)

Teweles, Richard J., et al., The Stock Market, 5th Edition, John Wiley & Sons, 1987, Series Preface; Chapter 9 ("The Over-the-Counter Markets", pp. 189-199)

Web Ventures Presents BookIt!" press release printed from <http://www.webventures.com/bookit/> (Web Ventures World Wide Web site) on Dec. 2, 1996

Wright, Peter, "Vision by Telephone," Computer Systems, Jan. 1986, Bramley, (Great Britain) - (Article)

"Wurlitzer Card Control: Unveiled at the recent National Automatic Merchandising Association convention was this magnetic card vending system from Deutsche Wurlitzer GmbH," Vending Times, November 1979 - (Article)

Yager, T., "Better Than Being There," Byte, March 1993, Vol. 18, pp. 129-130, 132-134 - (Article)
Zilles, S.N., "Catalog-Based Order Entry System," IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, Vol. 25, No. 11B, April 1983, pp. 5892-5893 - (Article)

Also, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement should not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information, as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56, exists.

Applicant merely wishes to bring all the information that he is aware of from various sources to the Examiner's attention. For example, certain of the above-listed documents may be of interest because they were cited by the Examiner in other related cases. Other documents may be of interest because they are prior art to other recently issued patents relating to commercial systems (that are not prior art to Applicant's present application that predates them) for example, U.S. Patent No. 5,794,207 to Walker et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,758,328 to Giovannoli, U.S. Patent No. 5,845,265 to Woolston, and U.S. Patent No. 5,710,887 to Chelliah et al. Although these four patents are clearly not prior art, they are listed in this information disclosure statement to indicate the source of some of the documents cited in this information disclosure statement. It should be noted that although a majority of the documents cited here may pertain to commerce type systems, very few utilize videoconferencing techniques. Applicant has also cited here references that describe operations of "on-line services" such as CompuServe and Prodigy, which were examples given in Applicant's application and references that describe EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) operations.

Also, of interest, perhaps when considering documents cited here and otherwise asserted by the Examiner in relation to the scope of Applicant's claims is a definition¹ (see attached Exhibit 1) of an "**online service**." It describes an "**online service**" as follows:

"A business that provides its subscribers with a wide variety of data transmitted over telecommunications lines. Online services provide an infrastructure in which subscribers can communicate with one another, either by exchanging e-mail messages or by participating in on-line conferences (forums). In addition, the service can connect users with an almost unlimited number of third-party information providers. Subscribers can get up-to-date stock quotes, news stories hot off the wire, articles from many magazines and journals, in fact, almost any information that has been put in electronic form. Of course, accessing all this data carries a price.

The difference between an online service and a bulletin board service is one of scale and profits. Online services provide a variety of information and services, whereas BBS's normally concentrate on a single theme. In addition, BBS's are often operated on a non-profit basis whereas online services are always for profit. Three of the largest online services are America Online, Compuserve and MSN.

One online service that defies classification is the Internet. In terms of users, it is the largest service, but it is not centrally controlled by any one organization, nor is it operated for profit."

Although the various documents cited here have been reviewed by Applicant's attorneys and/or agents, and in their view, Applicant's claims are distinct, the Examiner is encouraged to make an independent determination.

The items identified in this Information Disclosure Statement may or may not be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56 and the submission thereof by Applicant shall not be construed as an admission that any such patent, publication or other information referred to therein is material or considered to be material (37 CFR § 1.97(h)), or even qualifies as "prior art" (under 35 USC § 102) with respect to this invention unless specifically designated by Applicant as such.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information, as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56, exists.

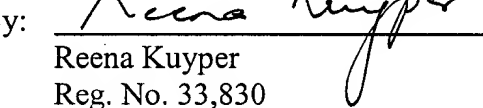
¹ from PC Webopaedia and Links at <http://webopedia.internet.com>

The attached Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98. This Information Disclosure Statement is believed to be timely submitted under 37 CFR § 1.97(b)(3), before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Thus, no petition or fee is required. In the event fees are required by the filing of these papers for reasons unknown to the undersigned, it is requested that they be charged to Lyon & Lyon's Deposit Account No. **12-2475**.

Respectfully submitted,

LYON & LYON LLP

Dated: 2/17/2000

By: 
Reena Kuyper
Reg. No. 33,830

633 West Fifth Street, Suite 4700
Los Angeles, California 90071-2066
(213) 489-1600